Clean, safe water for you

When you turn on the tap, you can be assured that you and your family are drinking clean, high quality water. The City of Mesa takes its responsibility to provide safe drinking water seriously. Mesa carefully safeguards its water supplies, and, once again, we are pleased to report that our system is in compliance with all state and federal water quality regulations.

Please take a few moments to read through this brochure. It was developed to provide you with information about your drinking water. Your questions, comments, and suggestions are important to us. Contact information for the offices and agencies that can best assist you has been provided for your convenience.

Contact information

City of Mesa home page - http://www.cityofmesa.org
City of Mesa Water Quality Services - (480) 644-3481 or 2621
E-mail address - water.quality@cityofmesa.org
Online water quality report -
http://www.cityofmesa.org/utilities/water/default.asp
City of Mesa CAP Water Treatment Plant - (480) 644-3289
AZ Department of Environmental Quality - (602) 207-2300
Environmental Protection Agency - (800) 426-4791
Maricopa Co. Environmental Services Dept. - (602) 506-6666

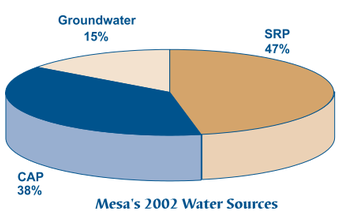
En Espanol

Si usted desea recibir esta información en español, tenga la bondad de llamar Lucy Lopez y pídale que le mande el folleto sobre el agua de la Ciudad de Mesa. Puede communicarse con ella llamando al (480) 644-3683.

Mesa's water sources

Mesa is fortunate to have multiple water sources. They include surface water from Salt River Project (SRP) and Central Arizona Project (CAP) and 38 wells used to meet peak demands.

Additionally, Mesa recharges wastewater that is treated to near drinking water quality. This water seeps into the ground, through a process called artificial recharge, where it is stored for future use. Storing water underground is an important tool for managing Mesa's water resources and helps ensure an adequate supply for current and future needs.



Mesa's 2002 Water Sources

Wise water use

Living in a community that gets less than seven inches of rain each year, it is imperative that we use water wisely. We are in the fifth year of a drought, and the reservoirs are below normal levels. Because of this, Mesa's surface water supplies have been reduced. To meet the needs of our customers, Mesa must use its groundwater reserves and purchase more costly water from CAP. Your conservation efforts can help reduce high-cost water purchases and associated cost increases. Conserving today will reduce the need for new water sources in the coming years. For more than 100 water saving tips, visit www.wateruseitwisely.com.

WATER USE IT WISELY

Taste and odor

The City of Mesa can experience seasonal taste and odor problems associated with the drinking water. The safety of the water is not at risk; however, there is a perception that the water is questionable because it has an unpleasant smell or taste. The primary causes are Geosmin and Methylisoborneol (MIB), non-harmful, naturally occurring compounds associated with algae growth in lakes and canals.

To help eliminate taste and odor problems, powdered activated carbon (PAC) is added during the water treatment process. Regular analysis of water samples helps determine how much PAC to use and identifies necessary adjustments to the treatment process.

The City's goal is to eliminate taste and odor problems associated with the drinking water. We will continue to use new technologies and improve existing processes to meet this goal.

Water hardness

Two common minerals in the Arizona soil—magnesium and calcium—dissolve in the water to create "hard water." In Mesa, it ranges from 12 gpg (grains per gallon) to 22 gpg, depending on the water source. Hard water poses no health risk but can be troublesome to consumers. It causes soap deposits in sinks and spots on dishes and faucets. Pipes, water heaters, and dishwashers can also be affected by calcium deposits.

The best way to reduce water hardness is to install an ion exchange water softener. There are many types of softeners available, so be sure to evaluate the performance capabilities of the product, as well as the reputation of the company. Once installed, it is important to follow the manufacturer's recommendations and service the unit regularly.

The high sodium content in soft water can damage landscaping, so landscape watering systems should be connected upstream of any water softener.

For more information about water softeners or other types of home water treatment units, contact City of Mesa Water Quality Services.

Possible contaminants

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The EPA has also prepared a citizen's guide to drinking water called "Water on Tap: A Consumer's Guide to the Nation's Drinking Water."

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Taking special precautions

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

More about arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

In the news - MTBE

You may have recently heard or read about methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), a possible water contaminant. Recent studies suggest that it may cause cancer. MTBE was widely used as a gasoline additive to reduce carbon monoxide and ozone levels caused by auto emissions. In some communities, fuel spills and leaking underground storage tanks resulted in the contamination of drinking water. To ensure the safety of our drinking water supplies, Mesa has tested all of its wells and water sources. No MTBE has been detected in any of our supplies.

Getting involved

If you wish to provide input on water-related issues, the Mesa City Council meets at 5:45 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month in Council Chambers, located at 57 E. First St., unless otherwise noted. For a complete meeting schedule, visit http://www.cityofmesa.org/calendar/calendars.asp.

TAP INTO QUALITY

The City of Mesa, along with other Valley municipalities and organizations, promotes the safety, convenience and value of tap water through the Tap into Quality program. To learn more about Valley water supplies, sources, and test results, visit www.tapintoquality.com.

Water quality data

The table below lists drinking water contaminants detected during the calendar year for this report (January – December, 2002). The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Parameter (Values listed in mg/L unless noted)	MCL	MCLG	City Zone		East Zone		Groundwater	
			Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range
Arsenic	0.05	N/A	0.0028	N/A	<0.005	N/A	0.0086	0.004-0.033
Asbestos	7 MFL	7 MFL	<0.2	N/A	<0.2	N/A	0.1	0.01-1.12
Barium	2.0	2.0	0.08	N/A	0.1	N/A	0.03	0.003-0.064
Calcium	**	N/A	139	82-180	185	180-188	51	6-140
Chlorides	**	N/A	69	N/A	78	74-86	224	17-380
Chlorites	1.0	0.8	N/A	N/A	0.12	<0.10-0.21	N/A	N/A
Chromium	0.1	0.1	<0.001	N/A	<0.005	N/A	0.013	0.003-0.025
Copper	1.3+	N/A	0.0034	N/A	<0.01	N/A	<0.02	N/A
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	0.006	0	<0.0005	N/A	<0.0006	N/A	0.0023	0.0006-0.0058
Fluoride	4.0	4.0	0.36	N/A	0.74	0.49-0.87	0.42	0.09-1.8
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	N/A	3.1	N/A	5.2	N/A	2.8	0.6-11.3
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	0.06	N/A	0.011	<0.005-.027	0.013	<0.005-.032	N/A	N/A
Hardness	**	N/A	230 (13.5 gpg)	171-282	289 (16.9 gpg)	284-292	208 (12.2 gpg)	10-410
Lead	0.015+	N/A	<0.0010	N/A	<0.005	N/A	<0.008	N/A
Nickel	0.1	0.1	0.001	N/A	<0.001	N/A	0.011	0.006-0.016
Nitrate	10.0	10.0	0.2	N/A	<0.2	N/A	1.9	0.28-4.7
Nitrite	1.0	1.0	<0.1	N/A	<0.1	N/A	<0.5	N/A
Percholorate	**	N/A	<0.004	N/A	0.0051	N/A	<0.004	N/A
pH (in pH units)	**	N/A	7.6	6.9-8.1	7.75	7.48-8.11	7.8	7.1-8.7
Radium 226, 228 (pCi/L)	5	N/A	<0.6	N/A	<0.6	N/A	0.6	N/A
Selenium	0.05	0.05	0.0016	N/A	<0.002	N/A	<0.005	N/A
Sodium	**	N/A	162	25-190	90	86-93	136	55-220
Tetrachloroethene (PCE)	0.005	0	<0.0005	N/A	<0.0006	N/A	0.0009	0.0005-0.0013
Total Dissolved Solids	**	N/A	580	310-776	651	600-696	555	160-900
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	0.08	N/A	0.037	0.0005-0.076	0.042	<0.002-.084	N/A	N/A
Turbidity (NTU)	0.5	N/A	0.08	0.061-0.151	0.07	0.05-0.09	N/A	N/A
Total Coliforms	**MCL**: No more than 5% of monthly samples may be total coliform positive		**MCLG** 0		**Yearly average** 0.09%		**Monthly range** 0.00-0.05%	

Possible sources:

Arsenic Natural deposits; Orchard runoff
Barium Drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Natural deposits
Chloride Natural deposits
Chlorite By-product of drinking water disinfection
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate Chemical & plastics discharge
Fluoride Natural deposits; Water additive
Gross Alpha Natural deposits
HAAs By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel Mining discharge; Natural deposits
Nitrate/Nitrite Fertilizer runoff; Septic tank leaching; Natural deposits
Radium 226, 228 Natural deposits
Selenium Discharge from petroleum & metal refineries; Natural deposits
PCE Factory & dry cleaner discharge
Total Coliforms Human & animal fecal waste
TTHMs By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity Soil runoff

Important drinking water definitions:

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

(>) Less than amount indicated
****** Limits are not set for these parameters
gpg Grains per gallon (water softener terminology)
MFL Million fibers per liter
mg/L All units are in milligrams per liter or parts per million
N/A Not applicable
NTU Nephalometric turbidity units
pCi/L PicoCuries per liter, measurement for radiochemicals
Range High and low measurements reported during year
+ Action level for corrosion control treatment

Providing safe, clean drinking water for you and your family

City of Mesa 2003 Water Quality Report

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